

## DATA SOURCES

**Population Growth and Density** – The information about county population counts and estimates is taken from the North Carolina State Data Center’s web page.

(<http://demog.state.nc.us/>) . The county population figures for 1990, 2000, and 2010 are for April of those years. The population densities and growth are also from the State Data Center web pages. The state rankings are calculated using the information provided.

**Public Recreational Acreage and Facility Inventory** – The information about recreational acreages and facilities was obtained directly from the public agencies that manage the sites. The data collection process for local governments began with the results of the Recreation Resources Service (RRS) publication “North Carolina Municipal and County Parks and Recreation Services Study 2000-2001.” 114 of the 207 local governments with park and recreation departments responded to that survey. In 2002, the Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR) sent follow-up questionnaires to the non-respondents requesting only the park acreage and recreational facility information that is displayed in Appendix A. Of the 93 non-respondents to the RRS study, 49 replied to the DPR questionnaire.

Of the 44 local government that did not respond either of these surveys, the Division of Parks and Recreation had information at least partial information on 39. This information was collected either from a DPR survey during 1995 or from the web pages of the local government. There are five local governments with park and recreation departments that have not supplied information: the towns of Belhaven, Enfield, Hamlet, and Nantahala as well as Richmond County.

For local governments that do not have a park and recreation department, the inventory contains information from grants awarded to the local government from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Parks and Recreation Fund (PARTF).

For state and federal agencies, the Division of Parks and Recreation collected the data from each agency directly.

**Natural Heritage Inventory Information** – The Natural Heritage Program supplied the information based on their inventory. Appendix C contains definitions and the Division of Parks and Recreation web site for more detailed information about the county inventory.